

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Red Tail Flyer

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Patrolling the not so friendly skies



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- A pair of F-16C Fighting Falcons launch flares during a mission over Iraq, Aug. 18. The aircraft are assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Balad Air Base.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Capt. Eric Sorenson, a 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility medic, prepares the "Grog Bowl" during the 332nd Medical Group's Combat Dining-in Sunday.

Medics hold Balad's first combat dining-in

Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
332nd AEW/Public Affairs

More than a half dozen Airmen fell victim to the grog bowl during Balad's first combat dining-in at the town hall Sunday night.

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and a few distinguished guests such as

Brig. Gen. James Chambers, 13th Corps Support Command commander, and Col. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, celebrated the achievements of the medical group with the light-hearted party.

"The goal of (the dine-in) was to help cap off a very momentous and

See DINE-IN, Page 6

Staring down the barrel of a gun

1st Lt. Matthew Foisy
732nd EMSG/CCE

The other day while conversing with a friend I felt a nudge in my back.

As I turned around to see what the intrusion was, much to my surprise, I was staring down the barrel of an M-16 with a magazine inserted.

This incident occurred due to an individual inappropriately slinging his weapon. Poor muzzle awareness and disregard for weapons safety is an issue that occurs far too often in this environment.

While deployed to a combat zone, such as Balad Air Base, many Airmen are called upon to carry out duties that are not normally inherent to their specific Air Force Specialty Code.

Additionally, these duties often require them to carry weapons. Gun totting is not

organic to much of the Air Force and it is something many Airmen are uncomfortable with. As we look at our Army brethren who we cohabitate with here, carrying and maintaining a weapon is second nature to their culture. It is the Army's belief that every Soldier is an infantryman first.

It's everyone's responsibility to enforce weapons safety throughout the area of responsibility.

Muzzle discipline is one of the most common infractions observed here. Always be aware of the direction your muzzle is pointing. Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.

For those who are performing escort duties with third-country nationals (TCNs), be aware that your actions with your weapon can be perceived as threatening.

Keep in mind although you are there to observe and provide

security, TCNs are still guests and are trying to provide us with a service. Just the other day I observed an escort with his weapon at the low ready position as if he were guarding detainees. This is an example of poor situational awareness. Be aware of how your actions are being perceived.

The proper time to perform a weapon functions check or to disassemble your weapon is not while you are on duty. The random sounds of charging handles slamming forward shouldn't be heard unless the muzzle of your weapon is in a clearing barrel or you are in a secure area. This will help prevent accidental discharges, which can carry a steep penalty often in the form of UCMJ actions.

Finally and most importantly, weapons maintenance and function checks are a must in this hot and dusty climate.

Past history has shown a high potential for weapons malfunctions in this environment. For those carrying weapons outside on a daily basis you should be breaking down your weapons and conducting field cleaning measures each day.

When cleaning the internal parts of your weapon remember not to leave a lot of lubricant on the weapon because it tends to attract dust and grit, be sure to wipe off all excess with a rag. If available, try to get a muzzle cover for the end of your rifle.

Be sure to conduct a thorough weapons inspection and functions check prior to going on duty. If you are unsure or have any questions about your weapon, stop by the 332nd Security Forces Squadron Armory where a trained professional can help you and answer questions.

See GUN, Page 7

Got a story?

Know someone in your unit that has a unique story/hobby, or are you interested in writing a story?

Call The Red Tail Flyer at 458-1064 or e-mail:

redtailflyer@blab.af.mil



Medic offers advice for readjusting to life back home

Maj. Joseph Richards

332nd EMEDS

When you arrive home, the transition may not be as easy as you might think. If you are married, you may find that readjusting to cohabitation with your spouse is somewhat challenging. You may also find that your spouse and friends have gone along with life just fine without you.

On the other hand, you may find that your family was very disrupted by your absence. There may even be severe problems that have sprung up in your relationships while you have been gone. For the vast majority of people returning home, it is a joyous, yet stressful time. That stress can be made worse if you return home to a troubled marriage or other significant family problems.

Deployments can be very difficult for children. For those of you who left young ones at home, they may act as if you are a stranger when you return home. Children may react with shyness, toileting problems, misbehavior, clinging, sleep difficulties and other difficulties. Children for the most part are thrilled to have daddy or mommy around again.

Remember that children, friends and spouses have likely learned ways to "get by" while you have been gone. Try not to take this personally. Their adaptation without you is a good thing since they have likely learned effective coping strategies in your absence.

Readjusting to the workplace presents challenges for some servicemembers. You may find that co-workers and supervisors are jealous of, or resent your hero status of returning from war.

It isn't uncommon for military co-workers to resent those who have deployed. Remember, those you left at your home unit may have had to "pick up the slack" created by your deployment. Co-workers may even see your deployment as a time during which you had ample time to play video games, recreate, exercise and have an all-around good time!

Along with some of these problematic attitudes, you may feel pressure from supervisors to get back to work as soon as possible. Even though there are policies regarding time allotted for decompression, you may be surprised that co-workers want to take a vacation when you return so that you can do their work.

Some returning from deployment may experience troubling emotional problems long

Transition tips

- ❑ Take your time. Allow the new you and your family to adjust to each other. Remember very young children don't have developed memories like adults do. Don't expect relationships to be exactly as they were when you left.
- ❑ Spend individual time with each of your children. Everyone needs time to get reacquainted. Ignore initial misbehavior of small children and focus on fun time together. If the behavior continues over several days, gradually add discipline in consultation with your spouse.
- ❑ Spend individual time with your spouse/significant other as well. Plan some romancing to rekindle passion. The more appreciated your spouse feels for taking care of things while you have been gone, the more she/he will be willing to embrace you emotionally and physically.
- ❑ Be prepared to step in to do your share of household duties and what may feel like more than your share. Remember your spouse has been doing it all.
- ❑ Plan for individual past-times. You may have spent many hours in individual past-times here (video games, movies, computer games, lengthy workouts). Those activities may not be practical at home with the time demands of caring for children and maintaining a household. If you plan to continue those activities, find ways you can do them (limited times, after the kids are in bed, etc) so that your children and spouse don't feel isolated because you aren't spending time with them.
- ❑ Don't feel you must immediately regain "control" of the household by enforcing the rules you had when you left. Your family has probably been reasonably successful in managing things while you were gone. They need praise and recognition for their work as well and may have found new ways to manage problems. If possible, don't change family routines for a few weeks, particularly for families with young children.
- ❑ Don't make big financial decisions or change your budget until you have been home for a while and you and your spouse have had several discussions about your money situation.
- ❑ Be cautious and judicious in your use of alcohol. There may be homecoming parties as friends and family welcome you back, but transitions and decisions are not made easier by too much alcohol.
- ❑ Take appropriate time off before jumping back into work. Don't allow peer pressure with co-workers to reduce the amount of time allotted by the Air Force. Take advantage of leave time.
- ❑ A little gratitude goes a long way. Acknowledge the sacrifices and efforts made by children, relatives, spouse and co-workers while you have been gone. Their work at home has likely supported your mission here.

after they return home. Those exposed to combat, may experience nightmares, disturbing recollections of the deployment, numbing, a feeling of alienation from others and other troubling post-traumatic symptoms.

Other concerning psychological issues may arise, such as sleep problems, low energy, lack of enjoyment of leisure activities, feelings of worthlessness, poor concentration, changes in appetite, mood instability, anxiety and sexual problems. Any person experiencing these symptoms should consult a mental health professional.

Many people experience temporary sleep adjustment or homecoming "jitters," but if any concerning psychological symptoms arise after deployment, especially if they linger more than a 1-2 weeks, consultation with a mental health professional should be sought. If a person returning from deployment experiences any thoughts of self-harm or harming others, emergency medical attention should be immediately obtained.

Air Force bases have Life Skills Support Centers where a person can receive mental healthcare. If you experience drug or alcohol problems, addiction recovery services and substance counseling is available through the ADAPT program at Life Skills.

If there are marital problems, domestic violence issues, other concerning family issues, or child neglect/abuse issues, Family Advocacy is a good source of help. Also, chaplains are a good resource to discuss many post-deployment issues. Other resources through the Air Force are the Health and Wellness Center and the Family Support Center.

I may be painting a fairly bleak picture here. Actually, most people are thrilled to get back home, and readjustment can be an interesting and rewarding experience. Many people may thank you for your service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reuniting with loved ones can be a wonderful experience that you will cherish.

Maintain OPSEC while writing awards, decorations

Master Sgt. Glenn Roll

332nd EOSS/Intelligence flight

The cornerstone of the operation security mission is to prevent disclosure of critical information to an adversary.

Critical information is any information about our activities, intentions, capabilities or limitations. If acquired by hostile interests, it may be used to jeopardize the successful execution of current or future missions.

When we write about our time deployed here we should be aware of the OPSEC principles and tailor our writing accordingly.

The best way to achieve this is to focus on the individual's primary duties and actual accomplishments rather than the peripherals.

Supportive information should be limited to only what the individual was directly involved with rather than the sum or whole quantities of the mission.

First on everyone's minds are the attacks

we have experienced during our tenure here.

The actual number of attacks, the weapon used during an attack and their success or lack of success is classified information and has no place in an letter of evaluation, decoration or award packages.

Using information of this nature requires close scrutiny by supervisors, superintendents, shop chiefs and commanders to ensure it doesn't cross into the classified category.

Below are some reasonable examples to follow:

☐ Performed 25 post attack UXO sweeps... (number does not reflect a total number of attacks only what the individual actually performed)

☐ Fortified tents protecting personnel and other AF resources... (does not disclose specific weakness, lack of security or degraded force protection measures)

☐ Defended against threat of indirect fire from rockets and mortars... (generalized; does not disclose specific type of rocket or mortar, or its success or lack of success)

Other OPSEC concerns

Operations

- ☐ Capabilities/limitations
- ☐ Preparedness
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Plans

Equipment

- ☐ Capabilities/limitations
- ☐ War Reserve Materiel
- ☐ Mass issue

Personnel/Administration

- ☐ Personal information
- ☐ Unit personnel

Intelligence

- ☐ Intelligence interests
- ☐ Intelligence assessments
- ☐ Intelligence sources, collection

Customs officials warn departing Airmen about carrying prohibited items

These are some of the things they will be taking...

- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Privately owned firearms, ammunition (live or spent), explosives
- ✓ Drug paraphernalia
- ✓ Sexually explicit material
- ✓ War trophies - enemy weapons, ammunition, equipment items. (Uniforms, flags, books, posters and photographs

are permitted if they don't have health or safety risks).

- ✓ Articles originating from embargoed countries (Cuban cigars, etc.)
- ✓ Archeological artifacts and national treasures
- ✓ Large quantities of illegally copied items (CDs, DVDs, etc.)
- ✓ Rocks or sand in jars (soil

from the Middle East presents the largest threat to U.S. agriculture. Soil harbors several pests which can do great harm to agriculture).

- ✓ Bones (including human skulls)
- ✓ Toxic or poisonous substances
- ✓ Butterfly knives

ance agents will conduct a complete search of all checked and carry-on baggage," Lieutenant Ketelsen said.

When the inspection is completed, passengers repack their bags and are issued a stamped Customs Declaration Form.

Baggage will then be dropped off for palletization, and passengers proceed to the waiting area until their flight departs.

Lieutenant Ketelsen encourages unit commanders to perform their own bag drags before coming to the customs inspection tent.

Some items that are NOT restricted are:

- ☐ Up to 14,600,000 Iraqi dinari (\$10,000 American)
- ☐ Old Iraqi money
- ☐ Iraqi bayonets (number authorized by unit commander to prevent selling large quantities)

Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

332nd AEW/Public Affairs

As most Airmen deployed as part of Air Expeditionary Force 9/10 prepare to take the flight home, customs officials warn passengers that they will be on the look out for restricted items and will confiscate prohibited items.

Before every Airman boards their flight out of Balad Air

Base they must first process through customs.

After arriving at the customs inspection tent, passengers will be given an amnesty briefing and given a chance to drop any prohibited items into an amnesty box, explained 1st Lt. Derek Ketelsen, 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Detachment 1 commander.

"The amnesty box provides

(Airmen) complete privacy while you discard items," Lieutenant Ketelsen said. "This is your last chance to get rid of anything that you should not have."

After the amnesty period, passengers will bring their bags to the inspection officials who will empty every bag completely, one at a time on the inspection table.

"The customs/border clear-

VOICES OF BALAD

Command post controllers keep base leaders informed

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

332 AEW Public Affairs

"Attention on the net, attention on the net, this is Panther-Alarm Red, Alarm Red, Alarm Red..."

Their voices have become a part of our daily lives, but who are the Airmen behind the words broadcast over the giant voice and emergency net?

They're members of the 332nd Expeditionary Wing Command Post and they do a lot more than tell us to take cover.

Playing the role of the dayshift Panther is Airman First Class Japhia Bowman a command post controller deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Her calls over Balad's emergency net have made her into somewhat of a local celebrity.

"It feels good to go around base and have people say, 'hey, you're the voice of the Panther,'" said Airman Bowman.

However, Airman Bowman is not the only voice of the Panther. Every evening she turns the radio over to Airman First Class Michelle Jones from Schriever AFB, Colo. So who is the real panther? Airman Jones feels she has a good case.

"When I first got here, one of the scripts I read from said 'the panther,' so I said (over the radio) 'this is the panther,'" said Airman Jones. "Since then, it just sort of stuck with me."

"That's the mystery of the panther. Nobody really knows who it is. It's nobody-it's everybody," said a command post controller who wishes to remain as mysterious as the panther's true identity.

As the debate over who is the true panther continues, both controllers say their experiences being deployed here have given them a new perspective on their job.

"The whole concept of being in a combat zone shines a new light on our career," said Airman Bowman. "During exercises, we train for this, but it never really came together until I got here."

"We issue all the warnings. We make sure planes come in and go out on time, so people can go home and get here," said

Airman Jones. "I come from a base where we don't have planes, so I'm really going to miss my radio and talking to the pilots."

While the voices of the panther are broadcasting over the emergency net, their command post colleagues are manning the base's "giant voice." This responsibility falls to the senior controller on each shift-Staff Sgt. Vanessa Trujillo, deployed from Randolph AFB, Texas, during the day and Master Sgt. Don Cunningham, deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, at night.

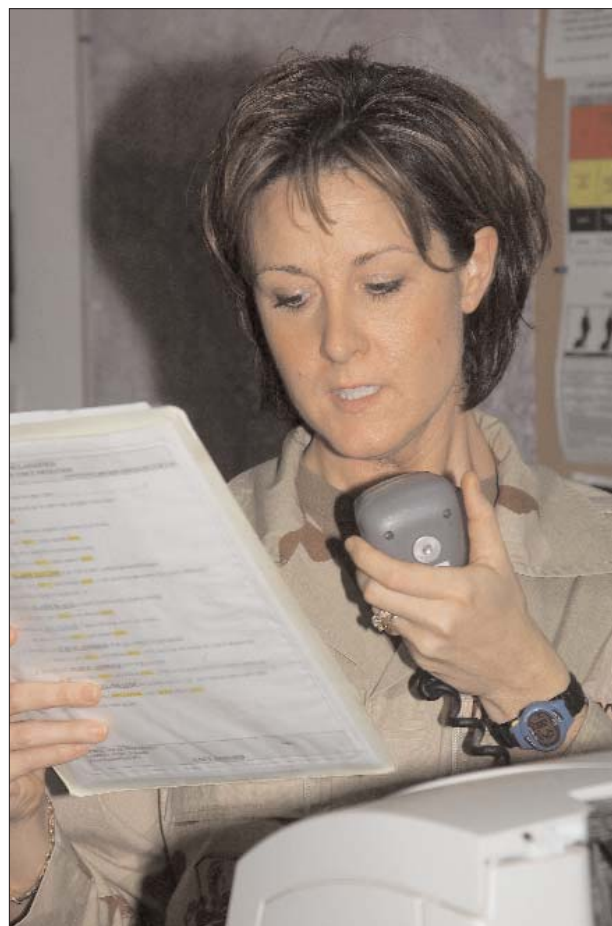
Although the command post is most noted as the shop that issues alarm conditions, they bring much more to the fight than the emergency net and "giant voice."

"We're the focal point for the wing for almost all information," said Sergeant Trujillo.

Included among the various responsibilities of the command post is distinguished visitor tracking, compiling and submitting situation reports and operation reports, plotting the points of impact and points of origin during attacks and coordinating the reports of unexploded ordnance sweep teams. Another aspect of their job is "flight following," where they track aircraft arrivals and departures, as well as, how many personnel and how much cargo is aboard. This information is forwarded to all who need to know.

Working in this environment is new for the command post controllers, especially the younger Airmen.

"When we got here we only had one controller with AMC experience," said Sergeant Cunningham. "Everything you do here, you grow a little. Everyone has



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Staff Sgt. Vanessa Trujillo, senior controller, makes an announcement over the giant voice system Wednesday.

learned a lot. All of the Airmen will be better controllers at home station because of their time here."

"I'll never forget the hard work and dedication of the controllers here," said Sergeant Trujillo. "These Airmen who've never been on a deployment have really progressed, matured and grown in this environment."

Day after day the command post is bustling with activity and not just during alarm conditions. The significance of their work isn't lost on the controllers.

"I take pride in my job," said Airman Bowman. "I know my job is important and important to the base."

Panther out.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

TASTE: Airman 1st Class Dwight Rehm savors the taste of the grog bowl drink after being called out by the president of the mess, Col. Gloria Hoban, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander. **CRAWL:** Capt. Eric Sorenson low crawls through the obstacle course on his way to the grog bowl.

DINE-IN

Continued from Page 1

memorable Air Expeditionary Force rotation," explained Capt. Sarah Abel, an organizer of the event. "It was also held to foster esprit de corps among the members of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group."

Although Senior Airman Michelle Heinrich didn't get a chance to run through the "obstacle

course" made from litters set on top of chairs, or chug down a glass of grog for not following the "rules of the mess," she still admitted having a good time.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," said the senior airman deployed here from the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. "I thought it was great seeing people laugh and enjoying themselves. It will leave a lasting impression in my mind."

The medics also got a word of

personal thanks from General Chambers for their efforts to help wounded servicemembers that pass through the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility.

"The Air Force has broken many stereotypes since deploying in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom," he said. "Many still harbor the false impression that you fly a mission then return home to the safety of a secure base before kicking back with a cold one to await the next

call.

"The reality is that you live and work 24-hours a day, seven days a week in a dangerous combat zone. There is no safe place, all of you face great risk just by being here."

As the night wound down, the medics watched a slideshow showing highlights of the deployment.

Colonel Hansen ended the night by congratulating the medics for their achievements here and challenged them to grow from their experiences here.

WORD IN THE DESERT

What was your most significant achievement here?



SSgt Margarita Harshman
332nd EOSS
"I setup a new section of the operations group and put together a flying schedule that integrates six Army and five Air Force squadrons."



SSgt Anthony Otremba
332nd ECES/Security
"I got coined by the wing commander for providing outstanding force protection."



SrA Renato Oliva
332nd CASF
"I helped evacuate more than 2,000 patients and maintained all of the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility computers."



SSgt Garratt Knight
332nd ESFS
"I helped Coalition forces detain a wanted suspect."



SrA Jennifer Taylor
332nd ELRS
"I reviewed more than 500 decorations and typed and printed nearly 500 thank you certificates."

Meet your neighbor



Tech. Sgt. Wilburn Slack

Home station: Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Unit: 332nd AEW/FM

Family: Wife Carmen, son, Tiger, and daughter, Kayla

Hobbies: Playing basketball, cards, dominos and enjoying life to the fullest
How do I contribute to the mission? I take care of people's pay. You come see me about your pay, I get the issue resolved and you go back to work focusing on the mission. This allows members to concentrate on the deployed location's mission.
What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? My air conditioned office and the people that come into our office.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I miss home cooking and my own bed and bathroom.



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions. Submit questions to public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q : I see cases and cases of bottled water around the base, but I really enjoy drinking soft drinks instead. Why should I drink bottled water as compared to other drinks? And I've heard that Air Force units can bulk procure sports drinks for the prevention of heat injuries. How do you submit a request for Gatorade?

A : Militarily approved bottled water is the best method for rehydrating the body. Consuming drinks other than water such as those containing sweeteners like sugar, aren't nearly as effective as water in providing what the body needs. Activities such as running, exercising and general hard labor outside in the sun will lead to dehydration unless preventive measures are taken.

Drinking plenty of water is central to heat stress injury pre-

vention. The fact is, if you wait until you're thirsty to drink, you're already somewhat dehydrated.

Keep an eye on your urine and how often you use the bathroom. If you use the latrine regularly, and your urine is clear to light yellow, then you're probably getting enough water. If you're using the latrine less frequently and your urine is dark yellow, you may be getting dehydrated. Drink more water not to exceed 1 to 1 1/2 quarts per hour when performing strenuous outside activities.

According to Air Force Instruction 65-610, 332 AEW-SUP1, Air Force units (through their First Sergeants) may obtain bulk quantities of sports drinks for the prevention of heat injuries provided they have members conducting official duties with two or more hours of uninterrupted outside work during heat categories of yellow, red and/or black. For more information, call Tech. Sgt Paul Doty or Lt. Col. James Cowan at 458-1709/1763.

GUN

Continued from Page 2

Carrying a weapon is a serious charge. Stay aware of where your muzzle is pointing at all times; no one should be

staring down your barrel except the enemy.

Take proper care of the weapon and ensure functional checks are completed prior to reporting to duty.

Remember that your attention to detail will ensure both you and I will execute our missions properly and return home safely to talk about it for years to come.

Briefly speaking

Last call for donations

There will be a humanitarian aid drive Monday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the clam shell across from Tuskegee Town next to the post exchange trailer. Items for Iraqi students, such as pencils, crayons and books will be given to the civil affairs division of the Army for distribution. Unused/unopened toiletry items can also be dropped off any time at tent E-15.

The items will be used to support our wounded as they transit through our medical facility. Monetary donations cannot be accepted.

Uniform changes

Officials clarified the following uniform standards on Monday:

1. Members must wear close-toed shoes to the shower rooms. (Flip flops must be carried, then worn in showers)

2. If a member does not have the issued PT gear, they may wear the black or brown uniform tee shirt, plain navy blue or gray shirt, with plain black, plain dark blue, or plain gray shorts. Shirts must be tucked in and have sleeves. In this combination, members are NOT allowed outside the AF housing area.

**Need something to cover up those dirty white walls?
Stop by the 332nd AEW Public Affairs office
located inside 332nd AEW Headquarters and pick up some ...**

AF LITHOGRAPHS

Available in various sizes, but supplies are limited.
Lithographs are to be used ONLY in common areas of offices.



Defense briefs

Former AF museum collections chief convicted

DAYTON, Ohio -- Scott Ferguson, 44, was found guilty of two crimes connected with the theft of a Peacekeeper armored car from the U.S. Air Force Museum at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Mr. Ferguson is the former collections chief at the museum -- the third highest position in Air Force Museum management. A federal grand jury indicted him in February 2003 charging him with one count of transporting a stolen vehicle across state lines from Aug. 1 to 10, 1998, and one count of selling a stolen vehicle July 11, 1999. Each count carries a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment.

Mr. Ferguson pleaded "no contest" to the two charges and was found guilty by Judge Rice. The indictment identifies the vehicle as a 1980 two-door Cadillac-Gage "Peacekeeper" Armored Car.

School lunch prices increase for first time since 1995

DALLAS -- The price of a "full-priced meal" served in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service overseas school meal program will increase by 10 cents for the 2004 to 2005 school year -- the first increase in nine years.

This year's price adjustment is necessary to cover recent increases in food, labor and transportation costs, AAFES officials said. The free, reduced-price (40 cents) and breakfast meals, which constitute 40 percent of meals served in AAFES school cafeterias, will not be affected. Elementary school student meals will be \$2.05 and middle- and high-school meals will be \$2.20. AAFES officials said they will continue to review the pricing policy annually to ensure the program is running on a break-even basis. In comparison, some schools throughout the United States are raising breakfast and lunch prices by as much as \$1.

Local workers help with fortifications



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

A local contractor helps fill sand bags near the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron recently. Dozens of local workers have been hired to help sand bag the new living areas scheduled to open early this fall.

Program aims to help military spouses interested in teaching

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Spouses to Teachers, the Defense Department's latest endeavor to help military spouses interested in teaching, is serving a similar purpose as the popular Troops to Teachers program, an official said.

DOD officials established Troops to Teachers in 1994, and responsibility for the program was recently transferred to the U.S. Department of Education. Troops to Teachers was created to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, according to the Troops to Teachers Web site.

Troops to Teachers laid the groundwork for Spouses to Teachers in providing individual state information, said Michael Melo, director of a Spouses to Teachers pilot program in Virginia, and director of Virginia's Troops to Teachers program.

Spouses to Teachers is currently a pilot program in six states: California, Colorado,

Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit
<http://www.proudtoserveagain.com>.

Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. The program was prompted by military spouses who were already teachers or interested in teaching, but were facing difficulties finding certification requirements and job information when they moved, said Gary Woods, acting director of DOD educational opportunities.

The program would offer information, counseling and guidance to eligible, interested individuals, they said. Initially, eligibility is limited to those with a bachelor's degree who are spouses of active-duty servicemembers and members of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve on extended duty.

It will also offer limited financial assistance to help defray the costs of meeting state certification requirements in the pilot states.

On the future Spouses to Teachers Web site and in offices that will be handling the pro-

gram, the goal is to provide information on teacher-certification requirements within a state. They will also have information on what kinds of jobs are available and share that between the system they are currently teaching in and systems they may be transferring into, Mr. Woods said.

These sources also aim to make spouses aware of additional course requirements for certification or credentialing within the new state and make sure spouses know where they can turn for potential financial assistance to pursue those courses.

While the program serves spouses interested in teaching, it also helps ease the burden of a national teacher shortage. The benefits, however, are not limited to the schools that stand to get quality teachers out of the program. The students reap rewards as well.

The national Troops to Teachers Web site is the best source of information right now, they said. A Spouses to Teachers Web page is scheduled to launch Wednesday. It will link from the Troops to Teachers site.

T-Town Chapel Schedule

Sundays:

Protestant Religious Education, 8 a.m.
 Protestant Worship, 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.
 LDS Sacrament meeting, 7 p.m.
 LDS S.S., 8 p.m.

Mondays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.
 Catholic Discussion Group, 8 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Catholic Mass, 11 a.m.
 Purpose Driven Life, 8 p.m.

Thursday:

LDS Study Group – 7 p.m.

Friday:

Catholic Mass – 5:30 p.m.
 Women's Fellowship – 7 p.m.

Saturday:

Catholic Reconciliation/Confession – 12:15-12:30 p.m., or appointment
 Catholic Mass - 12:30 p.m.
 Protestant Communion – 7 p.m.

Daily:

Band of Brothers (Men's Fellowship), 8:30 p.m.
 Christian Prayer, 9 p.m.

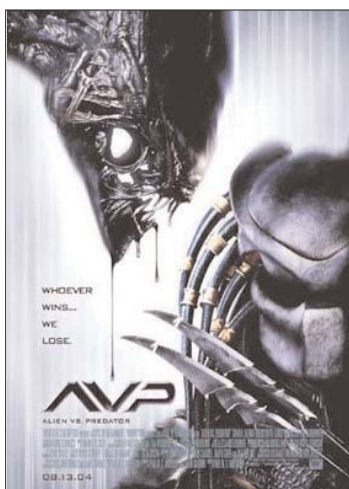
Know what this is?



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Each week, the Red Tail Flyer staff will take a photo from around Balad. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil with **Identify This!** in the subject block. The first person who sends in the correct answer wins a prize and will get their name printed in this publication. Congratulations to the Master Sgt. Renee Bailey, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, for identifying last week's closeup of Chex cereal.

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today

3 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator
 6 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator
 9 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator

Saturday

3 p.m. - Sleepover
 6 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator
 9 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator

Sunday

3 p.m. - Spiderman 2
 6 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator
 9 p.m. - Sleepover

Monday

3 p.m. - Sleepover
 6 p.m. - Spiderman 2
 9 p.m. - White Chicks

Tuesday

3 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator

6 p.m. - Sleepover

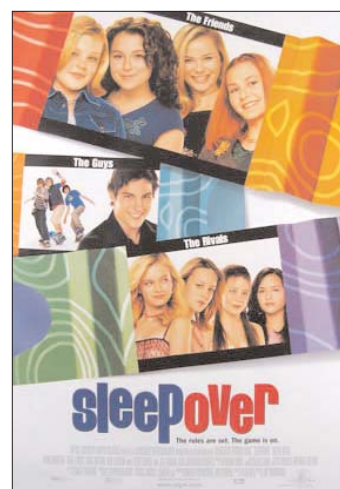
9 p.m. - Spiderman 2

Wednesday

3 p.m. - Spiderman 2
 6 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator
 9 p.m. - Sleepover

Thursday

3 p.m. - Sleepover
 6 p.m. - Spiderman 2
 9 p.m. - Alien vs. Predator



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